

**From:** Dave Doran-Marshall  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** MS antitrust

Please take MS down. This is a company that much of the world looks to as a bully. It's a company that squashes innovation for their own ends. MS and its products foster a "do it like me or not at all" ideal. Its business practices accomplish this by keeping new ideas out of the market, or taking the ideas for their own before anyone else can. Its products do this by squashing things like creativity and free will. To some people, structure and lack of choice mean comfort. To these people, the idea of being controlled is appealing. Whoever is reading this email might be like that. While I respect their way of thinking and right to do so, I am not that way, and MS's business practices hinder me from doing it "my" way. Look at the recent Windows XP. Aside from borrowing the X from Mac OSX (released not long before XP was officially named), XP forces users to use MS products, and renders PCs useless if they don't. When a user tries to install new software, XP runs checks to see if it's "compatible". While this is supposedly intended to create less friction between software and hardware, it also allows MS to put software on the list that it would rather be rid of. For instance, apple's quicktime software, which is for playing media such as movies and music, could be included, thus rendering it useless when someone tries to install it.

And forcing people to use MS products is not good, either. In Windows Media Player (similar to quicktime), MP3 playback is stunted within the program. When a user listens to an mp3 using WMP, it doesn't sound as good as it did with earlier versions, or different programs. However, when the user creates an audio file using Microsoft's own format, (which is only for windows media player), the song sounds as it should. This makes people put down what they had been using, or could be using, and start using MS's stuff.

In contrast, Apple's Quicktime is the most compatible media player out there. It can play essentially anything, and at the highest quality (can't play WMP files of course). This is why macs are preferred in the music industry. While Apple creates superior software, which is free, MS creates shotty software, which is also free. Seems I'm missing one piece to this puzzle, which is why would anyone put up with microsoft? I will leave that to you, or to someone else. I don't think that people realize just how powerful MS is. I understand that MS holds stock in several large broadcasting networks. Can you say perfect propaganda machine? I am not getting conspiracy theory here, but I think we can agree in the wake of this Enron stuff, that big business should not be allowed to have so much power. How could it ever be that Microsoft would need even more money? Why don't they give up and take the fruit to the bank? How many billions is Gates worth? Well thinking tax and inflation-free, just remember that if you spent a million dollars a year, it would take 1,000 years to spend \$1,000,000,000 (one billion dollars). Thanks for giving

us the chance to speak up.

Dave DM

2001 College Grad, Art Major. Now working as a Personal Financial Rep  
for a major bank.